

WELCOME TO THE DELTA HERITAGE TRAIL

The northern 14-miles of the 73-mile Delta Heritage Trail, from Lexa to Lakeview just south of Barton, is ready for mountain bikers and walkers. The compacted, crushed rock trail passes through fields and treelines offering smooth riding and walking through Delta farmland scenery. Mammals, song birds and raptors can be seen along the route. Be sure to pick up the brochure, *A Guide to Wildlife Watching at Delta Heritage Trail State Park*.

Acquired in 1992, Union Pacific Corporation donated the 73-mile right-of-way. This created a rail-to-trail facility of national significance. The right-of-way passes through some of the most remote and scenic areas remaining in "the Delta" region of eastern Arkansas. This region was once covered by a bottomland hardwood forest extending from Cairo, Illinois to the mouth of the Mississippi. Today only fragments of this great forest remain, separated and surrounded by agricultural development. The middle portion of the Delta Heritage Trail passes through some of the finest examples of the remaining wetland forest.

Future trail development will open the section south of Snow Lake. Here the route becomes a shady tunnel through overhanging vegetation with openings where trestles cross sloughs and bayous. For six miles the trail adjoins the 160,000-acre White River National Wildlife Refuge and trestles become longer, crossing larger areas of wetlands. The route crosses the White River on a high steel bridge with a long, elevated trestle on either end. For three miles between the Arkansas and White Rivers the trail passes through the dense bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands of the Trusten Holder State Game Management Area.

The White River/Lower Arkansas River basin is recognized by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission as an ecological "megashield," representing a significant remnant of the once great bottomland hardwood ecosystem of the lower Mississippi River Alluvial Plain. Several forest types are readily observed from the trail and wildlife is abundant.

AREA ATTRACTIONS

The Delta Heritage Trail is one of many attractions in the Arkansas Delta. This region is fast becoming a crossroads of activity for tourists, just as it has been a crossroads for frontiersmen, traders, hunters, and planters throughout its 200-year history as part of the United States.

Missouri Pacific's passenger train the, Delta Eagle, on *The Route of the Eagles*, no longer steams down this right-of-way. However, the Delta is attracting visitors in increasing numbers on the Louisiana Purchase Highway, The Great River Road and Crowley's Ridge National Scenic Byway. They come to learn of Delta life at the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, and to camp in the unusual forest community of Crowley's Ridge in St. Francis National Forest. Comfortable campsites are also available in Corps of Engineers recreation areas along the Arkansas River near the south end of the Delta Heritage Trail.

Nearby are Louisiana Purchase Historic State Park, Arkansas Post Museum and Arkansas Post National Memorial. Birders and wildlife watchers have a lot to see in one of the nation's oldest and wildest areas: White River National Wildlife Refuge.

Just north of Interstate 40 you'll find one of mid-America's most remarkable Native America sites—Parkin Archeological State Park. Here Casqui, head of a large group of Native Americans of the Mississippian culture, befriended Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto. The gallery, programs and exhibits along the barrier-free trail through the village site tell the story. West of Parkin and just 13-miles north of Forrest City, in the beautiful Crowley's Ridge forest, is 7,000-acre Village Creek State Park where you'll find lakes, trails, full-service campsites and modern cabins.

Of course, the livelihood of the Delta, farming, is one of its attractions. The soil is extremely rich and cotton and soybeans are staples of the economy, and Arkansas is the number one producer of rice in America. Rice elevators resemble city skyscrapers on the horizon, and Stuttgart, on the Grand Prairie of the Arkansas Delta, is famed as the home of Riceland Rice. Rice is a beautiful crop. As the soil is prepared farmers make serpentine levees across their fields, when growing, rice is vivid green, and when ready to harvest it turns a rich golden color.

Enjoy your stay in The Delta.

THERE'S A LOT TO SEE IN THE DELTA.

- ☐ Delta Heritage Trail
- ☐ Delta Cultural Center
- ☐ St. Francis National Forest (USFS)
- ☐ Great River Road
- ☐ Crowley's Ridge National Scenic Byway
- ☐ Village Creek State Park
- ☐ Parkin Archeological State Park
- ☐ Louisiana Purchase State Park and Natural Area
- ☐ Arkansas Post Museum
- ☐ Arkansas Post National Memorial (NPS)
- ☐ White River National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS)
- ☐ Rower Japanese Interment Camp
- ☐ Corps of Engineers recreation areas

LOCATION

The primary access to the Delta Heritage Trail is at Walnut Corner, about 6-miles west of Helena on U. S. Highway 49.

For further information contact:

Delta Heritage Trail State Park

5539 Hwy 49 • West Helena, AR 72390

Telephone: (870) 572-2352

e-mail: deltaheritagetrail@arkansas.com

NOTICE: To preserve scenic beauty and ecology, fences and warning signs have not been installed in some park locations. Caution and supervision of your children are required while visiting these areas.

For information on Arkansas's other fine state parks, contact:

Arkansas State Parks
One Capitol Mall, 4A-900
Little Rock, AR 72201
Telephone: (501) 682-1191
www.ArkansasStateParks.com



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Arkansas State Parks 2009

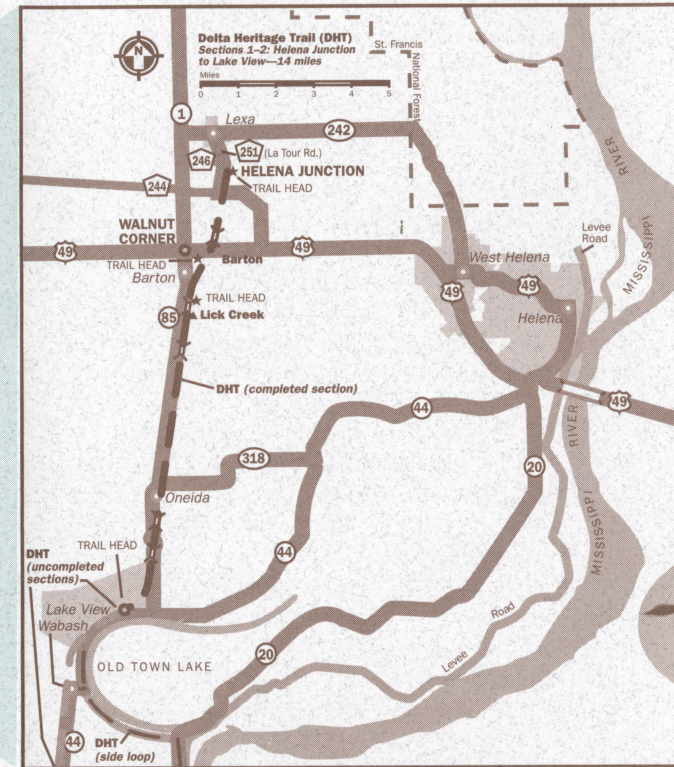
DELTA HERITAGE TRAIL STATE PARK



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & TOURISM

DELTA HERITAGE TRAIL STATE PARK

This rails-to-trails conversion in southeast Arkansas is being developed in phases along the 73-mile former Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way that stretches from one mile south of Lexa (six miles west of Helena) to Cypress Bend (five miles northeast of McGehee), the former route of *The Delta Eagle*.



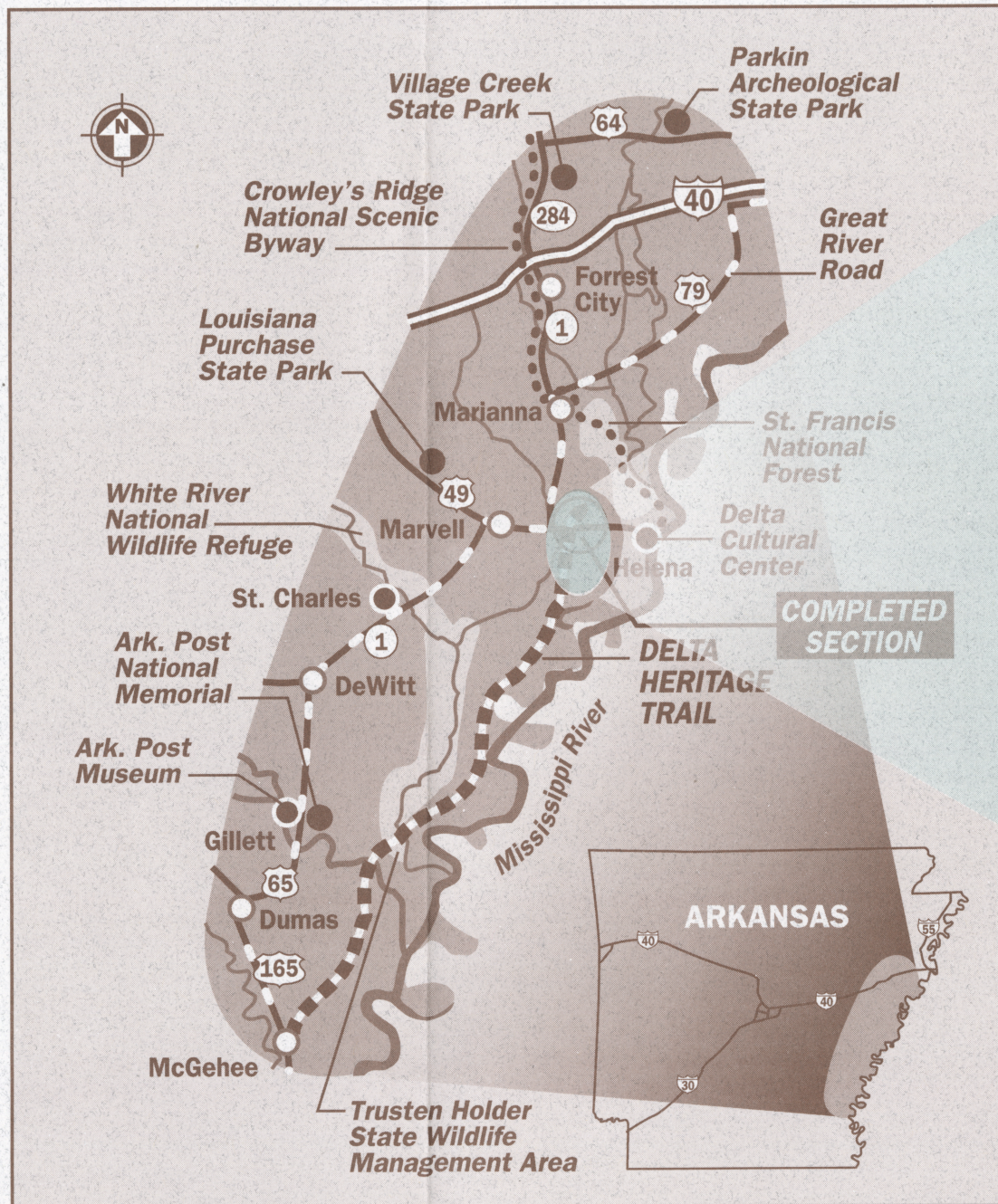
The first 14 miles of trail have been completed from Helena junction to the Lakeview community, just across from Old Town Lake. Trailheads are located at Helena Junction near Lexa, Walnut Corner at the U.S. 49 overpass, Lick Creek (Ark. 85 just south of Barton), and in Lakeview.

The trail stretches through a shaded canopy of native hardwoods, alongside agricultural fields, and across many streams. Wildlife viewing and birding opportunities abound along the route.

The park visitor center is on U.S. 49 in Barton. Trail maps are available at this location as are picnic sites, restrooms and five primitive tent sites. Once completed, Delta Heritage Trail will also offer sweeping views from bridges that span the Arkansas River and the White River.



Watch and listen for a variety of wildlife as you travel through the outdoor adventure of the Delta.



EXPLORE THE BEAUTY & HISTORY OF ARKANSAS!